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**ESSAYS**

**ON**

**NATURAL HISTORY**

**AND**

***RURAL ECONOMY.***

**BY THE LATE**

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another remarkable circumstance. The dye of the *Orcella* is extracted by urine and quicklime, but quicklime prevents the extraction of the colour from the Lichen *omphalodes*, and debases it when extracted.

### VIII.

*SPONGIA Columbæ*, sessilis rarissima pellucida sepimentosa, sepimentis planis inosculatis: supra foraminibus rotundis.

St. Columba's Sponge.

#### DESCRIPTION.

It is of a round compressed shape, and about four inches in diameter. Its substance is very tough, yet soft, delicate, and elastic. It eagerly imbibes water and parts with it freely; and though never so often wetted and squeezed, suffers no alteration in its substance or figure. These properties would render it valuable could it be found in any considerable quantity, and, for many purposes, it would be much preferable to the common sponge of the shops.

It

It consists of a number of partitions about a quarter of an inch thick, standing close together, and joined to each other in several places by inosculation. These partitions upon the under side, next the root, are imperforate, but upon the upper side, they are perforated by small round holes dispersed over their surface.

Of this fine sponge, which is different from all those in Linnæus's System or Ray's Synopsis, there was but one specimen found upon the south shore of of Icolumbkil.

Besides the above plants more particularly described, there grow likewise upon Icolumbkil,

IX. *ERYNGIUM maritimum* Linn. Sea Holly.

Frequent in blowing sand upon the beach.

X. *COTYLEDON umbilicus* Linn. Wall Pennywort.

It over-runs the walls of the monastery, and grows likewise upon the sea rocks. Nor does it appear to abound so remarkably any where in Britain as in the Western Islands and about the city of Bristol. It